AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Following is a complete set of claims as amended. This complete set of claims excludes claims 1-8 and 16-34 and includes new claims 35-47.

1-8. (Currently Cancelled)

9. (Original) A method of manufacturing a drug-eluting lead containing drug-eluting means for dispensing a drug, the lead having a distal tip, the method comprising the steps of:

providing said endocardial lead;

combining an inflammation-reducing drug with a drug carrying silicone elastomer to form a mixture thereof;

applying the mixture to the distal tip of the lead; and

allowing the mixture to cure in place in the lead.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of combining comprises the steps of:

combining a wetting fluid component and the inflammation-reducing drug to form a first mixture;

combining the first mixture and a base component to form a second mixture;

combining the second mixture and a curing component to form a third mixture;

applying the third mixture into the distal tip of the lead; and curing the third mixture applied to the tip at a predetermined temperature.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the curing step comprises the step of elevating the temperature to the predetermined value being in the range of about 40 degrees C to 75 degrees C.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of combining to form a first mixture comprises the step of providing a steroid for the inflammation-reducing drug.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of combining to form a second mixture comprises the step of providing a mixture of dimethylsiloxane polymer and a reinforcing silicone for the base component.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of combining to form a third mixture comprises the step of providing a platinum catalyst for the curing component.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the curing step comprises setting the predetermined temperature to 55 degrees C.

16-34. (Currently Cancelled)

35. (New) A method of manufacturing an endocardial lead, the method comprising:

combining an inflammation-reducing drug with a drug carrying silicone elastomer to form a mixture thereof;

dispensing the mixture to a distal portion of the endocardial lead; and

allowing the mixture to cure at the distal portion of the endocardial lead.

36. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the applying the mixture to a distal portion comprises applying the mixture within a chamber of the endocardial lead.

37. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the endocardial lead is a passive lead.

38. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the endocardial lead is an active fixation lead.

39. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the inflammation-reducing drug is a steroid.

40. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the combining an inflammation-reducing drug with a drug carrying silicone elastomer comprises:

combining a wetting fluid component and the inflammation-reducing drug to form a first mixture;

combining the first mixture and a base component to form a second mixture;

combining the second mixture and a curing component to form a third mixture;

applying the third mixture to a distal portion of the endocardial lead; and

curing the third mixture at a predetermined temperature.

41. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the predetermined temperature is in the range of about 40 degrees C to 75 degrees C.

42. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the base component is dimethylsiloxane polymer and a reinforcing silicone, and wherein the curing component is a platinum catalyst.

43. (New) A method of manufacturing an endocardial lead, the method comprising:

combining an inflammation-reducing drug with a drug carrying silicone elastomer to form a pourable mixture thereof;

dispensing the pourable mixture into a distal portion of the endocardial lead; and

curing the pourable mixture in the distal portion of the endocardial lead.

44. (New) The method of claim 43 further comprising:

providing a chamber at the distal portion of the endocardial lead;

wherein the dispensing the pourable mixture comprises dispensing the mixture within the chamber.

45. (New) The method of claim 44 further comprising:

securing the endocardial lead to a jig; and

elevating the temperature of the jig to cure the pourable mixture within the chamber.

46. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the endocardial lead is a passive fixation lead.

47. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the endocardial lead is an active fixation lead.